

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

*** PUBLIC NOTICE ***

Workers at Salem's Child Craft Industries, Inc. receive trade assistance

Indianapolis, Ind. – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that employees of Washington County's Child Craft Industries, Inc., including leased workers of TPS Staffing Solutions and Employment Plus, are eligible to receive federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA).

The TAA program, which is administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, is made available to workers who are displaced due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country. The company, which is located in Salem, produces juvenile furniture. Child Craft Industries, Inc. leased workers from TPS Staffing Solutions and Employment Plus.

In order for dislocated workers to be eligible for TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees requesting these benefits must file a petition with U.S. Department of Labor and it must be approved before these benefits can be released. The Carpenters and Janitors Union Local #2577 filed a petition on behalf of the workers on October 7, 2004. The investigation revealed that the decline in employment at Child Craft is related to a shift in production of juvenile furniture to Honduras.

Therefore, any employee, who has been or will be totally or partially separated from Amcast's employment on or after September 23, 2003 through the two years from the date of certification, is eligible for adjustment assistance. The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Additionally, the Department of Labor issued a certification for alternative trade adjustment assistance (ATAA) for separated older workers at Child Craft as well as TPS Staffing Solutions and Employment Plus. It was found that a significant number of workers at the company age 50 or over possess skills that are not easily transferable and that competitive conditions within the industry are adverse. Older workers may choose between regular TAA benefits or a wage subsidy of 50% of the difference between their new salary and old salary, up to \$10,000.

For more information, eligible parties should contact their local WorkOne Center, call 1-888-WorkOne or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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